



## newsounds

# Living Is Second Place

By SCOTT HOLTZMAN

People are still saying The Stones are dead. Pretty funny when they just tied The Beatles for second place in record sales to The Monkees.

Aretha Franklin, who'll be here this month, just got her fifth gold single. I can remember listening and loving Aretha five years ago when nobody knew who she was. (She was mostly a gospel singer then.)

I've held off saying much about the Vanilla Fudge first album for a long time. You see, I really got jazzed by it the first day I got it. Then, for some reason, I never wanted to hear it again. The only band on it that endures to me is "Keep Me Hangin'

On." I don't mind that it is so far out. Anyone who reads this column seriously knows that isn't true. It is full of great pieces and bits of music, but when it is all put together, it doesn't spell anything I'd care to hear again. The vocal is basically what bothers me.

I've gotten letters asking why in the world Mike Nesmith doesn't write a song as good for The Monkees as his "Different Drum," which he wrote for The Stone Poneys.

The reason is simple, if you base it on industry rumors. Mike doesn't like The Monkees very much. He'd rather give his songs to a group he respects. You know they don't see each other or stay togeth-

er when they are traveling. They are stuck where they are and everyone says they are miserable and dislike each other very much. (Shows what good actors they are, doesn't it?) I agree with Mike about the group. They make good, commercial records which have no heart or soul. I don't care how efficiently the Monkee Machine has been handled by their backers, you can't create a "chilling, exciting" atmosphere with people who don't like each other. Actors can fake it, but it shows to a really sensitive person.

The Fun & Games Commission has cut their most commercial record. I heard it the other day at Andrus Productions and I can't wait until you get a chance to hear it. It's nothing like the old Sixpence. By the way, did you know The Strawberry Alarm Clock used to be called The Sixpence, but they changed their name when they got a pick hit once along with Houston's Sixpence. The trouble is, so did Houston's Sixpence, so now nobody has the name.

I'm still promising myself that I'll listen five more times to "Smiley Smile" and "After Bathing At-Baxter's" to see what everyone is raving about. I still think both are childish ramblings.

I'm still laughing at David Honston's quotes in last week's Spotlight. David said that he likes country music because everyone can sing it and no one can sing The Beatles! Dear David: The Beatles write the most singable music of today. Maybe you can't sing it, but that doesn't mean everyone else can't. (Michelle, Yesterday, Hello Goodbye are unsingable? Come on . . .)

Congratulations to Neil Ford & The Fanatics on being one of the few local groups who have a whole album. I haven't heard it yet, but I understand it is selling well. His new single is by far the best thing he's ever released.

How about John Fred and

His Playboy Band (who have played Houston so often) coming up with a Number 2 record in the nation . . . stuck right there between The Beatles and The Monkees. Baton Rouge must be proud of them.

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## newsounds calendar

The newsounds calendar is a service of The Houston Post. It prints the public performances of the top teen music groups in the Houston area. Engagements are printed a week early for teen agers to plan ahead. Information about public performances may be mailed to Modern Living Editor, newsounds calendar, The Houston Post, Houston, Texas 77001, or called in by noon Thursday before Sunday publication.

### FRIDAY

The Clique, The Lost Generation—West of the Brazos Teen Club, West Columbia

The Sherwoods—Grand Par'i Ballroom, Bay City

fever tree—Texas Guard Armory, Orange

The Traits—Saint Luke's Methodist Church Teen Canteen

Soul Trippers—Insight Au Go Go

Troy Marrs and the Dynamics — Brenham Hanger Club

Bathtub Ring—Triangle Club, Bryan

### SATURDAY

Liberty Bell—The Web Teen Club, Port Lavaca

Steve and the Coronas—Insight Au Go Go

fever tree—Marian High School

The Sherwoods—Safari, Baytown

Soul Searchers—Swiss Alp